

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 7-11 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. A marked-up version of the claim is attached hereto on separate pages. Claim 11 has been added. Support for the addition of claim 11 can be found in previously cancelled claim 5.

The preliminary amendment is being made due to the fact that the Applicants felt that the amended claim 1, of the amendment on August 12, 2002 responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 10, 2002, was too limiting. Therefore claim 1 has been amended to be less limiting. However, the same arguments that were given in the above-noted amendment are still valid.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 7-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (third time-amended). A printing machine, comprising:

a drive unit;

rollers having a rotational movement and including a [feed]  
first sheet transport cylinder and [an impression] a second  
sheet transport cylinder;

a first sheet gripper mounted on said [feed] first sheet  
transport cylinder;

a second sheet gripper mounted on said [impression] second  
sheet transport cylinder;

said first and second grippers executing cyclical movements  
having phases and being synchronized with said rotational  
movement of said rollers and driven, together with said  
rollers, by said drive unit;

said first and second grippers having respective spring  
elements, said spring elements being stressed in one of said  
phases of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in  
another of said phases of the cyclic movement, a respective

one of said phases having a first one of said spring elements stressed being synchronized with a respective one of said phases having a second one of said spring elements relieved of stress;

said [impression] second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the [feed] first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from said surrender position to said acceptance position, said second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing said spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while said first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on said spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing said spring element.